

## **Abstract**

Object-zone extraction section 12 receives image information through image input terminal 11 and extracts object zones from the received image information. Characteristic-quantity generation section 14 generates the  
5 characteristic quantities of objects and the characteristic quantities of object zones. Characteristic-quantity synthesis section 15 synthesizes the characteristic quantities of a plurality of objects to generate a synthesized characteristic quantity. Correspondence establishment section 17 calculates  
10 the degrees of similarity between the characteristic quantities of object zones and synthesized characteristic quantities, and finds an optimum correspondence between the objects and object zone, on the basis of calculated degrees of similarity.